

NOTES AND NEWS

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in the San Francisco Bay region, with the Northern Division acting as host. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16. Field trips will be planned for Sunday, the 17th. It is hoped that a program inclusive of the numerous phases of ornithology that interest Club members can be arranged. Aviculture, bird-banding, oology, anatomy, paleontology and physiology, as well as natural history and systematics, should be represented. Interesting and valuable papers require careful preparation. Accordingly we urge an early planning for contributions to the program. In connection with this annual meeting, the Board of Governors will hold its Sixteenth Annual Meeting.—A.H.M.

The Western Bird Banding Association, at its last annual meeting in October, elected the following officers: President, E. L. Sumner, Sr.; Secretary, Hilda Wood Grinnell; Business Manager, William B. Davis. All communications regarding memberships, traps, or bands may be addressed to Mr. Davis or to the Association, at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley.—J.M.L.

According to press advices, Richard C. McGregor died in Manila on December 30, 1936, at age 65. McGregor belonged to that group of "bird boys" who attended Stanford University during the 90's; he got his A.B. there in 1898. In those years he paid a good deal of attention to California birds, and he published 27 articles relating to these. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 2, 1901, "A List of the Land Birds of Santa Cruz County, California," was from his pen. He was a Life Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club; his membership dates back to the very first year of the Club's existence, 1893. After leaving California he took up residence in the Philippine Islands, where through long years of consistent work both in field and study he established himself as authority on the ornithology of that region. He left a lasting record of worthy achievement there, in the form of numerous books and papers on its bird-life. At the time of his death, McGregor was one of the last Americans to hold a key position in the Philippine government, being editor of the Philippine Journal of Science and chief of the publicity division of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.—J.G.

The importance of organization is axiomatic. The Cooper Club we believe to be well organ-

ized. Its activities throughout the year tend to focus at the monthly sessions of the northern and southern divisions. To what extent can further organization lead to growth of the Club and promotion of its aims? One way would be through greater use of the local chapter principle made possible by existing provisions of the by-laws. To our knowledge there are now active two chapters, one at Stanford University, one at Salt Lake City. These local groups serve as nuclei, attracting new members and facilitating exchange of information of interest about birds. Chapters need not be large; they are free to conduct their affairs in any manner they may choose. Local organization should impose no burden, and it does not need to conflict with existing natural history societies. A Cooper Club chapter can arrange joint meetings with other related organizations; at the same time, it would benefit through being a recognized unit of the Club. In thinking of places where there are active groups of members, such centers come to mind as Tucson and Flagstaff, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; Denver, Colorado; and Eureka, Sacramento, Fresno, and San Diego, California. To members resident in these cities and in others equally deserving of mention is extended the invitation to form a chapter.—A.H.M.

In a medical book printed in 1831 (Coxe's "American Dispensary"), we read (p.358): "Opinions are always to be distrusted which are formed during the ardour of novel investigations." How often has the aptness of this comment been illustrated in much more recent times! We think, for example, of the warmth of advocacy characterizing announcement of certain theories of bird migration. *Time*, for calm reflection, is required to bring final, correct appraisal.—J.G.

Cooper Club members in the San Francisco Bay region are pleased to learn that the aquatic park now being completed along the Berkeley waterfront south from University Avenue is to serve also as a sanctuary for birds. Improvements such as have proved so effective in attracting ducks at Lake Merritt, in Oakland, are being installed and the plans call for continued activities to attract and protect birds in the area.—J.M.L.

Remarkable growth in the *Wilson Bulletin* has been observable the past few years. This growth bespeaks enthusiasm and energy on the part of the officers of the Wilson Ornithological Club as also notable spread of serious interest in bird-

life throughout the mid-west. Anent our enforced and regrettable decision not regularly to publish formal book reviews in the *Condor*, as announced in last issue, we are pleased to note that the December issue of the *Wilson Bulletin* includes no less than ten full pages of reviews written by Editor T. C. Stephens. These reviews strike us as of the ideal sort; they give the reader in a few words a fair idea of the nature of the book or article reviewed, they are properly commendatory where truly deserved, and also they are sharply and justly critical in places. This review feature of the *Wilson Bulletin* is one that we have admired, and we hope nothing will interfere with its active continuation.—J.G.



Fig. 13. W. Otto Emerson, life member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, now past 80 years of age and well known to all of the older generation of bird students. Photo taken March 2, 1932, Emerson's 76th birthday.

Jean Delacour, eminent French ornithologist, has been in California since the latter part of November. With his round-the-world trip checked at this point by the maritime strike, he has made the best of his time by widening his acquaintance with the birds and bird students of the State. This has been pleasant for those of us who have had the opportunity of meeting with him, and also his sojourn here has enabled him to acquire living birds of species new to his aviaries. These birds, many of them delicate, he will "personally conduct," as soon as a through steamer to France can be had.—A.H.M.

In this era of rapidly changing habitat conditions for many of our native kinds of animals, it would be well for bird-watchers to keep close record of such conspicuous changes in numbers as seem correlated with the extending human use of the land and water. Human-imposed modifications of environment may affect certain birds favorably; on this score we can point to the Mockingbird, Linnet, Brewer Blackbird and Killdeer as having probably increased in numbers. On the other hand are doubtless many species whose essential living conditions are becoming more and more reduced—let alone those direct factors of destruction like shooting. Among these species there are some that may right now be on the verge of extinction. For future historical use, it is desirable that reports of actual numbers of individuals seen, and circumstances of their observation, be printed where later accessible. Some of the species we think of at the moment, from the standpoint especially of status in California, that ought to receive this sort of attention are: Mountain Plover, Florida Gallinule, Least Bittern, Ross Goose, Cackling Goose, Fulvous Tree-duck, Shoveller, Redhead, Red-bellied Hawk, Swainson Hawk, Osprey, Sandhill Crane, and Least Tern. What was the actual status of each of these species in the year 1936?—J.G.

Recently, when looking up some early California bird records, our attention was arrested by the title of an article by Elliott Coues, in the *American Naturalist* for 1870 (vol. 4, pp. 297-303). The article was entitled "Foot-notes from a Page of Sand," and we proceeded to read it through. It dealt with avian foot prints as seen on a sea-beach—observations probably made when Coues was stationed at Fort Macon, North Carolina. The discourse proceeds somewhat according to the formula of a standard detective story. Scientific imagination is given play on a foundation of accurate knowledge, with results that are, to a bird student, truly thrilling. Coues, in the judgment of not a few bird students today, was the most scholarly and at the same time the most literarily accomplished ornithologist America has ever produced.—J.G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, September 24, 1936, at 8 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the Chair and about fifty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read. Appli-